

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is in reply to an Office Action mailed on July 30, 2004. The above-mentioned patent application, filed on December 12, 2000, presents Claims 1 through 12, inclusive. The Examiner has lodged a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121, stating the patent application presents the following distinct inventions:

Group I, which presents Claims 1-7 drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 336, subclass 5+; and

Group II, which presents Claims 8-12 drawn to a process for carrying out a reaction between a reactant gas and a reactant liquid, classified in class 564, subclass 305+.

Applicants elect without traverse to prosecute the invention according to Group II (Claims 8-12) in the present patent application. Therefore, Claims 1-7, inclusive, have been withdrawn pursuant to this restriction requirement. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the invention of Group II (Claims 8-12 in one or more separate patent applications.

Applicants acknowledge their obligation under 37 CFR 1.48(b) to review inventorship of the pending patent application in view of cancellation of the Claims to the non-elected inventions. No amendment of inventorship is required due to cancellation of the Claims of Group I, drawn to the non-elected inventions. Believing the application is in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully solicit an action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,



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